



## State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

### PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CITY OF EVANSVILLE**  
**Cass Avenue Sewer Separation Facilities Planning and Design**  
**SRF # WW08 13 82 05c**

**Date: August 29, 2008**

**Deadline for submittal of comments: September 29, 2008**

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) has determined that the project described here and in Evansville's Preliminary Engineering Report D will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

*How were environmental issues considered?*

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

*Why is additional environmental review not required?*

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

*How do I submit comments?*

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted within 30 days of the above date to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager  
SRF Programs  
100 North Senate Ave.; IGCN 1275  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

*What happens next?*

If we do not receive substantive comments during the 30-day comment period which indicate that serious environmental issues exist, the SRF's preliminary decision will become final. If the scope of the project changes significantly, the final notice will be revoked and the project's environmental impacts will be reevaluated. In such a case, a new Categorical Exclusion may be issued for another 30-day comment period, or the SRF Loan Program will prepare an EA or EIS; we may also reaffirm our earlier decision of Categorical Exclusion by issuing a memo or letter to the project's State Revolving Fund Official Loan File.

---

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

---

### I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Cass Avenue Sewer Separation  
Facilities Planning & Design**  
City of Evansville; PER D Project 3  
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 104  
Evansville, IN 47740-001

SRF Project #: WW08 13 82 05c

Authorized Representative: Harry Lawson, General Manager  
Evansville Water & Sewer Utility

### II. PROJECT LOCATION

No construction will occur to implement this project. The project will plan and design a sewer separation project on the south side of Evansville, east of the Ohio River. See Exhibit 1.

### III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Evansville has an extensive and aging combined sewer system. The project area experiences severe street and yard flooding, chronic drainage problems and sewer surcharging problems. The need to finalize planning for sewer separation improvements in the project area is twofold:

1. First, many of the residents in the project area have experienced sanitary sewer backups into their homes during storm events due to surcharging of the Covert Avenue combined sewer. The sanitary sewers in the project area are just upstream of the Covert Avenue combined sewer or are directly connected to it. There are several Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) downstream of the project areas that are activated during periods of heavy rainfalls.
2. Second, the city is interested in eliminating combined sewers as part of its CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reduce the frequency and volume of untreated CSO discharges. Positive impacts resulting from sewer separation include: reduction of basement and street flooding, reduction of sanitary discharges to receiving waters, decreased impacts to aquatic species and habitat, decreased contact risk with pathogens and bacteria from domestic sewage in the receiving water, and relief from CSO regulations.

Prior to construction, detailed facilities planning needs to be conducted. This will select the cost-effective and environmentally sound solutions to alleviate the problems.

The city evaluated two alternatives to address the problems: Under the "No-Action" alternative, no effort would be made to analyze flow and determine specific routing and sizing needs for existing or future needs. No effort would be made to evaluate methods to protect public health by reducing current surcharging, basement backups and sewer overflow problems. The city's LTCP would not be completely implemented. This alternative was rejected.

The selected alternative is to implement facilities planning and design for the Cass Avenue Sewer Separation Project. Detailed studies will be conducted to determine the need for new storm sewer systems, evaluation of existing sanitary sewers, and design of separated systems. Preliminary locations of separate storm sewers will also be confirmed. It is expected that the separated sewer system will remove approximately 110 acres of stormwater runoff from the combined sewer, thereby reducing sewer surcharging, basement backups and street flooding upstream, and reducing the volume and frequencies of CSOs downstream.

#### **IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING**

The estimated project cost is \$1,851,000. Evansville will borrow that amount from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) for a 20-year term at an annual interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The city has adjusted, and will continue to adjust, its rates and charges in order to pay for this project and debt service.

#### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES**

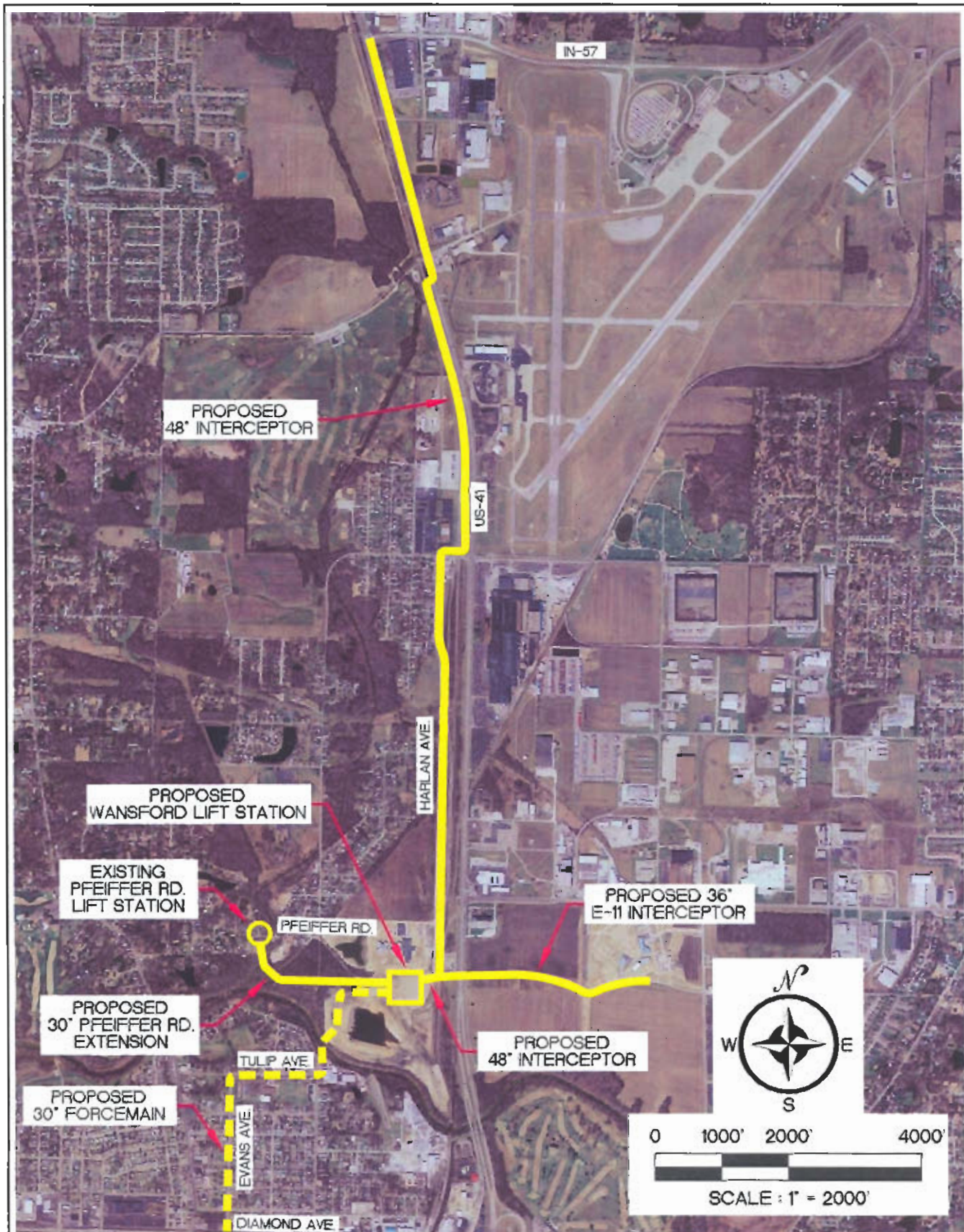
This planning and design project does not involve any construction. Consistent with the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A properly noticed public hearing was held at 1:30 PM on August 19, 2008 in Room 100 at the Civic Center Complex. Board members asked questions regarding the financing, timing and priority of the projects in PER D. No written comments were submitted in the five-day period following the hearing.







**VS ENGINEERING, INC.**

4225 N. HIGH SCHOOL RD. INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46254  
TEL. (317) 293-3542 FAX (317) 293-4737

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

PER D - PROJECT 2

WANSFORD LS AND US 41 INTERCEPTOR - AFP

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

**EXHIBIT**

**2**